(f) by when this University is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has a proposal to set up an Aviation University at Madurai. However as Madurai is an operational airport, Airports Authority of India is not in a position to hand it over to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(c) State Government has stated that the proposed University can impart training to pilots, engineers, air traffic control personnel, airfield safety operators, communication specialists, aerodrome managers and other allied disciplines.

(d) and (e) As informed by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, there was a discussion between the Vice-Chairman of Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission and a delegation led by U.S. Secretary of Transport, wherein the issue of setting up such a University with the support of the U.S. Fedral Aviation Authority was discussed.

(f) Since this proposal is now at a premature stage, it is not possible to give the time frame of setting up of the proposed Aviation University by the Tamil Nadu State Government and courses that would be imparted.

Handling of aircrafts at Delhi and Mumbai

1369. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi and Mumbai accounts for about 70 per cent of local air traffic; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that these two airports can handle only about 30 aircrafts an hour, compared with the global standard of over 75?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the year 2004-2005, Delhi and Mumbai airports handled around 48 per cent of the total passenger traffic.

(b) Delhi and Mumbai can handle 30 aircraft movements per hour on single runway. Handling capacity of runways varies due to location,

ground infrastructure, aircraft type and other technical parameters. Some of the international airports do handle more movements than handled by AAI at Mumbai and Delhi airports.

Regional Air Services by IA

1370. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is looking for regional flights in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, U.P. and Karnataka in collaboration with the respective States; and

(b) if so, what is the response of the State Governments for operating regional flights by Indian Airlines with their collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Alliance Air, subsidiary of Indian Airlines has held preliminary discussions in this regard with the Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka and U.P. Indian Airlines has recently submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) against an advertisement issued by Government of Jharkhand for operation of air services to/ from Ranchi and Jamshedpur under a subsidy scheme.

Growth Rate of Air Passengers at Madurai Airport

1371. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the growth rate of air passengers at Madurai airport;

(b) what new facilities have been provided at Madurai airport for the benefit of the passengers; and

(c) what is the stage of expansions proposed at Madurai airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The annual growth rate of air passengers at Madurai airport during the last three years was 21.4%.

(b) and (c) various upgradation/development works such as extension and strengthening of existing runway, expansion of apron to increase parking capacity and provision of additional taxiway, ground